

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-32 (Canceled).

33(Currently Amended). A purified and isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- (i) ~~a nucleic acid sequence comprising~~ the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; or
- (ii) a nucleic acid sequence 100% complementary to (i).

34-36 (Canceled).

47(Currently Amended). A The nucleic acid molecule of claim 33 which differs from any of the nucleic acid sequences of (i) to (ii) in codon sequences due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

48(Previously Presented). A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

49(Currently Amended). A purified and isolated host cell comprising a ~~nucleic acid molecule~~ the vector of claim ~~48~~ 33.

50(Previously Presented). A probe comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33.

51(Previously Presented). A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 33 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

52(Currently Amended). A method for preparing a protein encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- (i) ~~a nucleic acid sequence comprising~~ the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; or
- (ii) a nucleic acid sequence 100% complementary to (i), said method

comprising the steps of:

- (a) transferring a vector of claim 48 into a host cell;
- (b) selecting transformed host cells from untransformed host cells;
- (c) culturing a selected transformed host cell under conditions which allow expression of said protein; and
- (d) isolating said protein.

53(Previously Presented). A probe comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

54-60 (Canceled).